

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



BILL BOLLING
4TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
COUNTIES OF HANOVER, CAROLINE,
ESSEX, KING AND QUEEN,
KING WILLIAM, MATHEWS,
MIDDLESEX, NEW KENT, AND RICHMOND,
PART OF HUNTERDON COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 3037
MECHANICSVILLE, VIRGINIA 23116

January 17, 2002

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
GENERAL LAWS
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Reneta Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing to advise you of my support for the proposed settlement agreement between the United States federal government and the Microsoft Corporation, and to encourage you to approve this settlement agreement.

Based on the information I have reviewed, this proposed settlement agreement would be of tremendous benefit to consumers in Virginia and other states. The dispute between Microsoft and the federal government needs to be concluded as quickly as possible, and a fundamental part of this settlement agreement should be a recognition that Microsoft should be empowered to decide which products and features it offers to the public and how those products are priced. This is in the interest of competition, and bringing the best possible products, at the lowest possible price, to consumers.

The finalization of this settlement agreement is particularly important to the Commonwealth of Virginia. As you know, Virginia is a technology friendly state, and technology companies have flourished within the Commonwealth over the past several years. We need to do everything we can to encourage a continuation of this important economic development activity, and we need to make certain that we not impede the success of companies like Microsoft in any way.

Once again, I would encourage you to approve the proposed settlement agreement between the federal government and Microsoft and I appreciate your willingness to consider my views on this important issue.

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", enclosed within a rectangular box.

BILL BOLLING
Senator
Fourth Senatorial District

BB/dpg